

CURT SMITH
Director



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

600 North Capitol Way North • Olympia • Washington 98504-4091 • (206) 773-5700

March 8, 1990

Mr. John Keys, Regional Director
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
550 West Fort Street
Box 043
Boise, Idaho 83724

Dear Mr. Keys:

Enclosed please find the Wildlife Mitigation Proposal for the Greater Wenatchee Irrigation District (GWID). It is my understanding that this proposal is acceptable to staff members of U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and GWID. According to our last conversation with Mr. Jim Budolfson of your staff, the Bureau will forward the \$67,000 in mitigation funds upon receipt of this written proposal. Please designate the fund as "Colockum Wildlife Area Fund for Implementation of Habitat Study Recommendations" and forward to:

Ms. Jenene Fenton, Assistant Director
Management Services Division
Department of Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Thank you for the assistance of your staff during the GWID mitigation process. We look forward to continuing to work with you and to utilizing these funds in the future. Preliminary findings of the Colockum Habitat Study indicate that there are many opportunities for habitat development.

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If you have any questions, please call Mr. Tony Eldred at
509-663-4677.

Sincerely,



Chris Drivdahl
Assistant Director

LP:skw

Enclosure

c: Jenene Fenton AD - Olympia
Faye Olson - Olympia
Larry Popejoy - Yakima
✓ Tony Eldred - Wenatchee
Ted Clausing - Yakima
Roger McKeel - Yakima
John Musser - Wenatchee
USFWS (ES) - Olympia
USFWS (ES) - Moses Lake
Greater Wenatchee Irrigation District

Washington Department of Wildlife
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Greater Wenatchee Irrigation District (GWID) is providing irrigation water and converting approximately 1,600 acres of shrub-steppe and dry land farm lands to irrigated orchards. Under authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Washington Department of Wildlife (WDW) has worked with GWID and provided guidelines for mitigation of wildlife habitat losses. GWID set aside \$67,000 (\$60,200 capital development and \$6,800 total operation and maintenance for 34 years) in a fund to satisfy their mitigation obligation.

Several mitigation options have been explored and each has been dropped due to limitations of land or funds available or a combination of the two. Early efforts toward on-site mitigation were shifted to off-site locations to ensure more benefits in the long term.

WDW now recommends that the GWID mitigation fund be dedicated to implementation of the Colockum Habitat Study Recommendations on the Colockum Wildlife Area (WA). The goal of the proposed habitat developments would be a combination of in-kind and in-lieu mitigation. The conversion of shrub-steppe habitat to irrigation adversely impacts mule deer, chukar, California quail, sage thrasher, loggerhead shrike, golden eagle and other arid lands species. The Colockum proposal will benefit many of these same species plus Rocky Mountain elk, turkeys and forest grouse. The intention of WDW is to mitigate the impacts to adversely effected species as much as possible.

The Colockum WA, owned by WDW, serves as the core of lands used by wildlife in the Colockum area. Other major landowners include the U.S. Forest Service, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and Boise Cascade Corporation. WDW, with support from other landowners and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, is conducting a five year study of the relationships between land management, habitat and wildlife populations. The study will determine which habitats are most important and what can be done to increase wildlife carrying capacity. Habitat improvement projects will be conducted after study recommendations are available and after coordination with other landowners.

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The study is only half completed but early results indicate some of the types of habitat improvements that may be recommended. These items are presented as examples only and will not preclude other possibilities.

1. Water development in the drier eastern portions of the Colockum.
2. Riparian vegetation development near existing and new water sources.
3. Regeneration and management of aspen stands.
4. Wheat farming in abandoned fields in the Tarpiscan and Quilomene areas.
5. Prescribed burning on winter ranges to increase forage quality and quantity.
6. Fuels management to control wildfire in forest and rangeland.

GWID mitigation funds would be deposited in an account dedicated to Colockum habitat improvements and held until the study and plans are completed. At that time, we expect that a combination of mitigation funds, WDW funds and matching money from other agencies and organizations will be available. Maximum benefits to wildlife can be achieved through planning and coordination.